him with problems, he used to receive us with a smiling face and give us the line which we have to take up. When we go with complications relating to the rules of the House, he would hear us and try to find a way out. Like our previous Secretary-General, he has been very co-operative with the hon Members of the House, irrespective of political affiliations. In my personal capacity and on behalf of my party, I just wish him well in the new job he took over today.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): Now, Zero Hour submissions. Shri V.P. Duraisamy, on repeated firing on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.

RE: REPEATED FIRINGS ON INDIAN FISHERMEN BY SRI LANKAN NAVY

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity. With deep anguish I bring to the notice of the Central Government of the urgent need to protect the lives of our fishermen from brutal attack by Sri Lankan forces. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been continuously asking the Centre to give a stern warning to the Sri Lankan Government to desist from opening fire on our fishermen while they are fishing off Tamil Nadu coastal areas. Sri Lankan Navy has been indulging in such brutal attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen for several years but what happened recently is highly condemnable. On 17th July, two helicopters of Sri Lankan Navy sprayed bullets on motorised country-boats of Nagapattinam coastal area killing two persons and injuring two others. Inthiraj and Francis from Ramanathapuram district died on the spot because of bullet injuries. It is highly condemnable that two naval helicopters opened fire on innocent and unarmed fishermen. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had faxed a letter to the hon. Prime Minister of India on 20th of this month suggesting that India should register a strong protest with Sri Lanka. The Centre should not be silent any more since the people of Tamil Nadu are agitated on this matter. Therefore, I appeal to the Government of India to take up the matter with Sri Lanka to put an end to this. Sir, daily we come to know through radio, TV and through press media also that daily two-three persons are killed by Sri Lankan naval force. The Chairperson also knows very well that on all occasions, irrespective of party affiliations, hon. Members of Tamil Nadu have raised this issue. On so many occasions they have brought this to the notice of the Government of India. In spite of requests by Tamil Nadu Members the Government of India has not taken any action to speak to them. The Government of India has not deputed any officer to speak with the Sri Lankan Government to stop killing of innocent fishermen of Tamil Nadu. At this juncture I request the Chairperson to direct the Government of India to come forward to put an end to this matter permanently. Thank you.

SHRI N. THALAVI SUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I want to associate myself with this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): Your name and Narayanasamy's name are not found in the list. Anyhow, this being an important subject, I may give a very short time. There are four others.

SHRI N. THALAVI SUNDARAM: Sir, this is a very serious issue. We have nine Ministers from Tamil Nadu in the Cabinet. One of the Ministers who is a Member of Rajya Sabha, is also here. Sir, as you know, she was raising this issue everyday. The Sri Lankan Navy is killing the fishermen of Tamil Nadu in its entire coastal areas. I request the Chair to give a direction to the Government to take necessary action in this regard. The other day there was a discussion on the Ministry of External Affairs. Our hon. friend, Mr. Fernandes, said that there was some deviation in this particular

route which led to the killing of the poor fishermen of Tamil Nadu. I request the Chair to give a direction to the Government in this regard. I also request the Minister because she has always been fighting for the safety of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. I also request that the Prime Minister should take necessary action so that this type of activities of the Sri Lankan Navy are stopped. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): Even though she cannot speak now, do you want her to say something?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Sir time and again, we have been raising this issue in this House for the last ten years. We have been raising the issue of firing on the Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. They are doing so on the pretext of our fishermen crossing over the territorial waters of India and reaching the territorial waters of Sri Lanka. The root cause of this problem is *katchchativu*. When our firshermen go there for drying their nets, provision for which is there in the agreement entered into between India and Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Navy opens indiscriminate firing killing our fishermen who go there for fishing. The Congress regime and the respective Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu raised this matter in the past. This matter was also debated in the Ministry of External Affairs. Unfortunately, Sir, killing of fishermen is going on. In fact, ten days back or even five or six days back, five or six fishermen were killed. Every month there are at least three or four firings and every time eight or seven fishermen are being killed. Uptill now, according to the figures available, 54 fishermen have died due to firing by the Sri Lankan Naval Force during the last seven months. I do not know why the Government of India is closing its eyes. I think it is because Tamil Nadu is the farthest southern state of the country. They do not hear the voice of the people of Tamil Nadu. It is a heinous crime committed by the Sri Lankan Naval Force. It is condemnable. Sir, irrespective of party considerations all political parties have condemned it in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere. Therefore, Sir, the Prime Minister being the incharge of the External Affairs Ministry should directly talk to the President of Sri Lanka so that the interests of the people of Tamil Nadu are safeguarded and their lives are protected. This is the only thing which we need from the Prime Minister in this regard. The Prime Minister should intervene in the matter so that the firshermen of Tamil Nadu are saved from the firing of the Sri Lankan Navy.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is not merely an issue of Tamil Nadu. It is an issue which relates to a neighbouring country. We are a member of the SAARC. We are an elder brother in the SAARC movement. Sri Lanka is a member of the SAARC. The latest thing is the Gujral Doctrine. But what is the end-result of all these things? Killing of fishermen day in and day out! We do not have anything to talk with Sri Lanka. The ISI activities are increasing; insurgency in the North-east is increasing in spite of our neighbouring countries being members of the SAARC where our interests are intermingled. So, we should not allow our neighbours to misuse the indulgence or the large-heartedness of our country. The Government should take a serious note of all these things. If we are behaving magnanimously, it does not mean that we are weak and are unable to take care of such things. Whenever occasion demands, there should be a stern warning and we should see to it that is an end to such activities from any of the neighbouring countries.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): I would request the Hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs to convey the sentiments of the House to the Hon. Prime Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Yes, Sir. It is a very serious issue. I am well aware of the problems especially since I come from that State. I will urgently bring it to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister and see to it that something is done very soon.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): Thank You.

RE. RESURGENCE OF MALARIA AND DENGUE

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY (West Bengal): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the House a matter of urgent improtance — health of our popualtion — which in my humble view is not getting the top priority that it deserves. If we really want to improve the quality of human life, then prevention of communicable diseases, improving the nutritional status of our people, access to education, are to be given the first attention. Sir, I repeat, it should be given the first attention and that is how the Asian Tigers leapt to power. What I am going to say this afternoon will be applicable to other cases of diseases as well. But, I focus only on the reports about the resurgence of malaria. I want to emphasize the word resurgence. The resurgence of Malaria means when the cases of Malaria had gone down, they have re-appeared. Why? It is because of lack of monitoring and lack of vigilance. Somehow, we do not have either the intent or the capacity to continue a long-term fight — fight against disease and poverty. This must be addressed to.

The second point that needs serious deliberation is whether the National Programme for Control and Eradication of Malaria yielding effective results. That is to say, whether enough money has been allocated. And, more importantly whether the money is being spent in the best possible way. Sir, I would like to give a small example. We are using DDT but at the same time, we know that mosquitos have become DDT- resistant.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): I would like to inform the Hon. Member that at 2.30 P.M. precisely we have to take up the Private Memebrs' Bills.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, I will not take a long time.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): No, no. I know, you would not take a long time. I know that. But, if it becomes inconclusive, I will not be able to help you.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, I will not speak for more than three minutes ... (*interruptions*)... Should I sit down? Would you like me to sit down?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): No, no. What I am saying is, we have to start Private Members' Business at 2.30 P.M. and we cannot take time from it. If it is other business, I would have given you the time but the Chair cannot give you time which is meant for Private Members' Business.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: I will give one example. We are using DDT and mosquitos have become DDT-resistant. A notable medical man told me that in fact mosquitos are growing fat on DDT. I would like to ask, should we not use Malathione and synthetic Pyrithroides even though they are more expensive? Here, we should not count our pennies. The health of the people is most important. I can give another example. When fever goes down, we declare the patient immediately fit but in reality the body is not actually sterilised or infection-free. As a result, the mosquitos happily carry germs from one body to the other. I think, these little things should be attended to.

Sir, finally, we must take a holistic approach to health. Sociological factors like crowded-dwellings, poor sanitation,